

RF 2/10/06 290.796U9N

PATENT

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-10 were rejected under Section 102 as being anticipated by Coss. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Coss describes method for improving the performance of a firewall. The patent seems to discuss support for complex access rules, multiple users and multiple networks. It also relates to filtering, access rule decisions and redirect proxy processing i.e. off-loading of application level processing from a firewall to external proxy servers. Proxy redirection allows a firewall to determine, based on incoming data packets, that an external proxy server should be used to handle the proxy functionality for the application. This determination is made without knowledge or "consent" of the client (host in the internal network). The goal is to off-load proxy functionality away from the firewall into dedicated proxy servers. Regardless, only the firewall and the relevant proxy servers remain aware of the solution - the goal is transparency for the client. Coss also seem to consider intranet firewalls, i.e. firewalls that apply security policy to traffic exchanged in the internal network, as a means of increasing security.

The present invention enables the use of encryption in an internal network, such as a corporate network, as a means of improving user security. For instance, if a computer in the

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internal network needs to communicate with an outside server, carrying sensitive data, the present invention allows the client computer to use end-to-end encryption between itself and the outside server, but still allows the firewall to control security 5 policy. End-to-end encryption benefits user security but causes a policy control problem: the firewall is only able to base access control decisions on externally visible unencrypted fields (such as IP addresses), when more complete control (e.g. over TCP/UDP port numbers) is desirable. Traditional firewall 10 implementation methods, including Coss, cannot be used in such a situation for accurate policy control.

The steps of the present invention allow the host in the intranet to interact with the firewall to effect policy lookup and enforcement. Instead of the firewall performing both policy 15 lookup and policy enforcement, the host in the internal network is trusted to carry out most of the policy enforcement instead. In contrast, the firewall in Coss has access to packets for independent policy verification and is essentially transparent to client computers.

20 More particularly, it is submitted that neither Coss nor any other cited reference teaches or suggests the combination of the steps of: receiving transformation information from the fire wall and applying the transformation information to the message to modify the message to be sent in accordance with the information 25 sent from the firewall, and the firewall associating the

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identification data, received from the first computer, with the connection for the message and letting the message through the firewall as long as the firewall associates the identification data with the connection for the message.

5 Applicant fails to see why a person of ordinary skill in the art would look to Coss and the other cited references to learn about the specific use of transformation data and association of identification data to determine whether to let a message through the firewall when such steps are completely
10 missing in Coss and the other cited references. It is submitted that Coss would require extensive modifications that are not taught or suggested in order to meet all the limitations of the amended claim 1.

In view of the above, the amended claim 1 is submitted
15 to be allowable.

Claims 2-10 are submitted to be allowable because they depend, either directly or indirectly, on the amended allowable base claim 1 and because each claim includes limitations that are not taught or suggested in the cited references.

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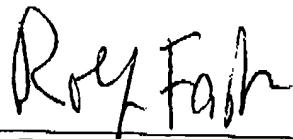
In view of the above, the application is submitted to
be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully
requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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